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Indophyes yaromi, a new genus and species of Nanophyidae (Curculionoidea) from southern India

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Abstract

A new monobasic genus of Nanophyidae, *Indophyes*, and a new species, *I. yaromi*, are described from southern India (type locality: Karnataka, Bilukoppa, 800 m, 40 km W Mudigere). The new genus is characterized by 5-segmented antennal funicle, strong sexual dimorphism of the rostrum, dentate femora, male tibiae unarmed, abdominal suture IV distinct in both sexes, male pygidium not foveate and 8th elytral interstria not crenulate. The subulate form of rostrum—abruptly narrowed apically—is unusual among the Nanophyidae.

Key words: taxonomy, description, weevils

Introduction

Alonso-Zarazaga (1989) re-defined the genus *Nanophyes* Schoenherr using the following characters: rostrum with slight sexual dimorphism, femora without denticles or spines or with 1–2 minute denticles, suture between abdominal ventrites 4 and 5 in female obsolete and male pygidium with one median dorsoapical fovea. This definition fits most Palaearctic representatives of *Nanophyes*; however, there are up to 100 species, predominantly known from the Palaeotropical region, assigned by different authors to *Nanophyes* (e. g. Klima, 1934; Pajni and Bhateja, 1982), turning this genus into a dumping place for representatives of undescribed nanophyid genera. The characters of many of these species do not fit well with the definition of *Nanophyes sensu* Alonso-Zarazaga, and these species have remained in *Nanophyes* solely due to the lack of any attempts to revise the Palaeotropical Nanophyidae since Marshall (1927) and Pajni and Bhateja (1982).

Five genera of Nanophyidae, within them two with 5-segmented antennal funicle: *Manoja* Pajni and Bhateja and *Nanophyes* Schoenherr, have been known so far from India (Alonso-Zarazaga and Lyal, 1999; Pajni and Bhateja, 1982).

Following is a description of a new genus and a new species of a nanophyid with 5-segmented antennal funicle from India.

Material and methods

Fifteen specimens were studied. Several specimens were soaked in hot water and dissected. Genitalia were extracted and treated in a warm solution of KOH 10%, mounted in glycerin gel and drawn with the help of a Wild M20-16766 stereomicroscope with a camera lucida. The habitus drawings were made using a Leica MZ125 stereoscope with a camera lucida. The photographs were taken using a Discover.V20 microscope and Canon PowerShot G9 camera, Zeiss AxioVision program, version 4.7.1. Pencil drawings were captured and processed in Adobe Illustrator 9. Finally, the genitalia were mounted on cardboards in a mixture of polyvinylpyrrolidon, sorbitol and glycerol (Lompe, 1989) and pinned under the specimen.

Measurements were taken with an ocular micrometer in a binocular microscope.

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